

Dawood Farahi to be the seventeenth president of Kean University. Dr. Farahi has been described as the embodiment of Kean University for his commitment to educational quality and affordability for its students. His leadership will undoubtedly bring Kean University to an even higher level of academic excellence.

Dr. Farahi was recently special assistant to the president of Kean University for both operations and technology. During this time, Dr. Farahi was responsible for the supervision of budget management, position control, enrollment services, and the office of computers and information systems. He created and implemented the Technology Institute, which provides training for faculty and staff in order to integrate computers into the curriculum and begin developing distance-learning courses.

Dr. Dawood Farahi has worked closely with state, county, and municipal officials in problem solving and technical capacities. Dr. Farahi developed and implemented a strategic information plan for the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey. As a result, the Elizabeth Police Department has been lauded as one of the 10 best in the nation. Working with the Elizabeth public school system, Dr. Farahi created the Vision 2000 Strategic Plan, which is now used as a model for many urban schools in New Jersey and throughout the nation.

Dr. Farahi was a Fulbright Scholar, and received a Ph.D with honors from the University of Kansas. He has been a full-time professor at Kean University since 1989, teaching Quantitative Methods, Management Information Systems, and Strategic Management, and was honored in 1993 as the Graduate Teacher of the Year, and was named Teacher of the Year in 1996.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dawood Farahi on his appointment as the seventeenth president of Kean University.

H. RES. 384, A BILL HONORING THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 384 that celebrates the successful journey of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

Inspired by the Freedom Riders of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement, a broad coalition of individuals including immigrants, union officials, religious leaders, and civil rights activists set out on September 20, 2003 from ten major U.S. cities to educate the public and elected officials about immigrant rights and the injustices of our country's current immigration policies. Over the last 12 days, 900 freedom riders in 18 buses have visited more than 100 cities, towns, and work places.

The freedom riders have educated communities across America about the hardships faced day after day by immigrant workers and their families. Immigrants work in every industry in America. They are construction workers, doctors, nurses, janitors, meat packers, farmworkers, engineers, and soldiers. They care for our children, tend to our elderly, pick and serve our food, build and clean our houses,

and what they ask for in return is a fair and equal opportunity to achieve the American dream. Yet, our broken immigration system impedes many because they are unable to live and work freely. Far too many immigrants are exploited by their employers, separated from family, and unprotected by our laws. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders have renewed the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement in order to draw attention to the needs of this marginalized community.

But that is not where their effort ends. They have a plan of action—a solution to many of the hardships encountered by so many immigrants in this country. Their plan has four key proposals: a new legalization program for undocumented immigrants; the right of immigrants to reunite with their families; the protection of immigrants in the workplace; and civil rights and civil liberties for all.

To bring their plan to the attention of our national leaders, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride arrived in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 2003. I welcome, and congratulate them for embarking on this historic journey.

I particularly want to acknowledge the two buses of freedom riders from Los Angeles. Several of the participants are my constituents who have taken time from their jobs and left their families and children behind in order to make the long journey to Washington, D.C.

I met with a group of them on Thursday, October 2. What they told me was truly inspiring. Some have been in this country for several years while others have only recently arrived, but they all have a love and appreciation for America. They don't want or expect handouts. They believe in hard work and doing their part for our country. What they do want, Mr. Speaker, is what we all want—the opportunity to prosper and to obtain a good life for themselves and their families. They want to be full participants in every aspect of our society.

I applaud the Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders and commend the organizers for helping to ensure that immigrant voices are heard. I am encouraged by the support they have garnered across the country, and I hope that their tour will serve as a catalyst for fair and meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws. Our immigrant community deserves greater protections under the law, and Congress has an obligation to provide it.

In the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Let us therefore continue our triumphal march to the realization of the American dream . . ."

In keeping with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, we are reminded today that the struggle for civil rights continues for many. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is a renewal of a struggle for fairness and equality for all. I am hopeful that my colleagues and all of America will embrace it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2003, I was absent attending a meeting in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on Roll Call Number 524, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare

Prescription Drug and Modernization Act; Roll Call Number 525, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308, the Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act; and Roll Call Number 526, on H. Res. 357, Honoring the Life and Legacy of Bob Hope.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call Number 524, "Nay" on Roll Call Number 525, and "Yea" on Roll Call Number 526.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM EXTENSIONS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN A. BOEHNER, GEORGE MILLER, and LYNN WOOLSEY, I am introducing legislation to extend for one year provisions in the Child Nutrition Act, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and the Commodity Distribution Reform Act that are vital to our Nation's effort to ensure that low income children have access to safe and nutritious food in school, after school, and during the summer months.

Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce are busy preparing legislation to reauthorize and improve all the child nutrition programs included in the Child Nutrition Act and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the After School Snack Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. I have been pleased with this effort and the progress made in preparing a bill for introduction.

Despite our progress, Committee Members do not want to draft such important legislation in haste and so need additional time to ensure that any changes to the current law best serve the interests of the children whom these programs are intended to reach. Without the extensions included in this legislation, millions of needy children could lose access to healthy meals and snacks that are critical for their healthy growth and development and academic success in school.

This legislation includes a very important provision that allows children of our Armed Forces to continue receiving free- or reduced-price meals at school if they meet eligibility requirements. Without this legislation, families living in privatized military housing could not exempt their housing allowance from the income amount used to determine their children's eligibility for free- or reduced-price meals, like those living in military-owned housing currently can. Taking school meal subsidies from children when many of their mothers and fathers are fighting for our nation's security at home and abroad would have a devastating effect on these families.

Also included in this legislation is a provision that would continue the ability of for-profit child care centers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This program provides meals and snacks to children in for-profit centers when at least 25 percent of the children meet the income eligibility criteria for free- and reduced-price meals.

Additionally, this legislation would extend the authority for schools, churches, and community organizations to operate Summer Food Service Program sites, and in 14 states, continue operation of special pilot programs that reduce paperwork requirements and thereby increase the number of low-income children who receive free meals and snacks during the summer months.

Finally, this legislation ensures that until a child nutrition reauthorization bill is signed into law, commodity distribution to schools will be maintained at sufficient levels and that schools will have funds available to replace commodities that pose a potential health or safety risk to students.

The child nutrition provisions that would be extended through this legislation benefit America's most vulnerable children. It is our duty as lawmakers to ensure that these at-risk children and their families can continue to receive the benefits for which they have been deemed eligible until the House and Senate complete work on legislation reauthorizing both the Child Nutrition Act and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act in their entirety.

PREVENT PRICE GOUGING DURING A DISASTER—SUPPORT THE P.I.G. ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, as we have just seen following Hurricane Isabel, some vendors charged residents exorbitant rates for essential goods and services following the storm. A recent Washington Post article reports that in one instance, a tree-cutting firm wanted \$17,000 to remove five trees that had already fallen to the ground. The same article refers to gasoline being sold for over \$3 a gallon and bottles of water sold for \$5 apiece.

While most merchants are honorable and help their neighbors by providing at a reasonable cost the products or services during a crisis, others seek to take advantage of these people in their time of need. Today I am introducing the Permanently Inhibit Gougers (P.I.G.) Act that would prohibit vendors from increasing prices on goods and services widely needed during a declared disaster.

Specifically, prices could not be increased by more than 10 percent in excess of the average price of a product over the last 90 days. This restriction would apply for the seven days before a foreseeable event and for the 90 days following a disaster. Increases in excess of 10% would be branded an unfair or deceptive business practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act. Reasonable exceptions would be made for vendors allowing them to raise their prices proportionally when their cost of doing business or acquiring wholesale goods increases during a crisis.

Additionally, violators would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$250,000. People who are the victims of price gouging would be able to sue the purveyor for damages up to three times the amount they overpaid.

Congress must act to prevent unscrupulous vendors from taking advantage of consumers during an emergency. We need to make it clear that such despicable behavior, which is

as shameless as looting, will be punished severely in order to ensure that our constituents are not gouged at the worst possible time. I urge my colleagues to send gougers a strong message by signing on as cosponsors of this legislation.

HONORING CONSULEGIS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important semi-annual conference that will be taking place in my district over the span of four days in October. Becker & Poliakoff, a highly respected and diverse commercial law firm based in Hollywood, Florida, has been chosen to host the Fall meeting of Consulegis, an international network of law firms.

Consulegis, an international association of independent law firms, was first founded in Germany to provide cross-country services when numerous restrictions once were in place that hindered commerce between many countries in Europe. Members of this organization include law practices that achieve the hallmark of being independent, commercially minded, and possessing the highest professional standards. Since its initial inception, the organization has grown rapidly, once encompassing more of Europe and then later expanding to include members from other continents of the world.

The founding principles that guide this exemplary international group are based on the premise that within our globalized commercial framework, cooperation and cohesion amongst a strong network of firms will bring forth the ideal results for their respective clients. Simply by working together, Consulegis and its independent firms can rely on a number of resources and a solidified level of trust to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion to rise today and honor this event. Not only am I proud of the respected law firm in my district, Becker & Poliakoff, which has proven worthy as a member of Consulegis to host this crucial conference, but I am encouraged by this organization's efforts to bridge gaps in the international community. Indeed, forming a reliable network of professionals all seeking to help their clients and spur growth in our international commercial framework only has proven to be positive in every sense. From partnerships such as Consulegis and the cooperation they foster, these firms have been trailblazers in understanding and harnessing the beneficial context of the international economy.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN HOPPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Calvin Hopper has worked for many years in the field of nu-

clear safety. His dedication and hard work has earned him widespread recognition, including the Outstanding Achievement Award from Colorado State University—Pueblo. Calvin is well accomplished in his field, and I am honored to recognize his achievements today.

Calvin is a distinguished Senior Development Engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he works in nuclear criticality safety process analysis and program management. Prior to his current work, Calvin held many positions in the field, including helping to develop the Department of Energy Standard Practices Guide for criticality safety projects for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In addition, Calvin has served as the Deputy Advisor and Technical Expert to the U.S. Nuclear Technical Advisory Group and is a member of the American Nuclear Society, where he serves as chairman of several committees. Outside of his professional life, Calvin works to give back to his community through involvement in the Habitat for Humanity and the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra and Band.

Mr. Speaker, Calvin Hopper is a dedicated scientist and active citizen. His distinguished professional achievements and commitment to his community are truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Calvin here today.

ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BOB MURPHY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, back home in New York, Mets fans are coping with the retirement of New York Mets announcer Bob Murphy. Murph was an original Met, having called Mets games since their inception in 1962, 42 seasons ago. He saw, and brought home to us, every peak and trough in between.

It's hard to explain the special bond that Mets fans have with Bob Murphy. But it is akin to a long-term friendship that begins in early childhood, suffers with you through adolescence, struggles with you through young adulthood, and triumphs with you through maturity. Friends who spend every summer day and night together, and whose hearts ache to be reunited during the long, cold winter.

As children, Bob Murphy tucked us in to bed at night. He sat with us in the classroom as we smuggled a radio into school. He rode with us as we sat in traffic. No matter what else was transpiring in our life, we could always turn to Bob Murphy bringing us a routine game in the middle of June, and be put totally at ease. Bob Murphy had that calming effect on us. Chicken pox, report cards, girlfriends all came and went—but through the years, Bob Murphy never left our side. He shared those moments with us all while bringing us to the edge of our seat, sharing with us the emotional roller coaster that comes with being a Mets fan.

He brought us laughter; he brought us tears (in the early years, often at the same time). In their history, the Mets have won two World Series and four pennants. But, nestled between those accomplishments, they have suffered at some of the leanest years that baseball has ever seen. All the while, our emotions